

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

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July 16, 1976

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Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman of the Government Operations
Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
442 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

I want to thank you for seeing me last Friday and allowing me to share with you my great concern over what would happen to The Asia Foundation if its major source of public financial support were to be suddenly withdrawn. I appreciated, too, your suggestion that I follow up our visit by writing you further on this matter.

As you said, you are aware of the Foundation's earlier history and the Foundation's efforts over the years to serve in appropriate ways our country's interests in Asia. The Foundation's motivations have not changed and the desire on the part of its Trustees and staff to promote and further our country's interest in the development of stronger, more open and more just societies in Asia, and in stronger Asian and American understanding and cooperation remains as high today as when the Foundation was founded.

Over the years the Foundation has received support, financial and otherwise (contributions in kind and services) from a wide cross-section of America -- from the Federal Government, from state governments, from local government agencies, from other foundations and corporations, from private citizens and from a host of American institutions ranging from universities and professional societies to private voluntary community associations. Most of the Foundation's financial support by far has come from Congressionally appropriated funds through the State Department and AID. Most of the non-cash support has come from contributions-in-kind, namely donated English language books and journals for distribution to Asian students, teachers and libraries of all kinds. Corporate gifts and foundation grants, while small in comparison with federal support, have been important, and more support from these sources is being sought. The Foundation further hopes to broaden and increase its base of financial support from prospective Asian donors by encouraging the richer and more developed countries to contribute through The Asia Foundation to the needs of the poorer people of Asia.

The Foundation sees itself as being a small partner in the larger American public and private concern for and effort to help Asians

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help themselves. The Foundation also serves as a bridge in Asia between the Asian governmental and private sectors, and it receives significant local support from both in the form of matching contributions to Foundation-supported projects. Taken all together, the ratio of annual private to public support is close to dollar for dollar -- when the estimated value of private contributions-in-kind is added to the Foundation's endowment income and annual gifts and grants from other private sources. For example, over the past seven years the Foundation has received \$33,351,043 from the United States Government. Over this same period the total private input into the Foundation has been \$33,101,808.

Despite this close to one for one ratio the Foundation is in great need of increased contributions in cash from the American private sector. The greatest need is for unrestricted funds. A renewed and redoubled private fund-raising effort is underway, and the Foundation's goal is to add each year new corporate and foundation donors to its list of private supporters. At the same time, it will be necessary for the Foundation to continue to seek funds from the United States Government on the basis of the merits of its programs, and its ability to further the interests and priorities of the United States Government in Asian development, and in Asian-American cultural and educational exchange.

The Foundation has always been primarily concerned with the human dimension of the development process, and with the needs of Asian individuals and groups for opportunities to advance and better their lot, to participate more fully in the life of their local communities, and to contribute more effectively to the development needs of their own societies.

The Foundation offers encouragement and help to those who are not being reached by larger bilateral programs. It especially seeks to help Asian private voluntary organizations, rural and urban groups and the work of women and youth who are concerned and active in seeking ways to meet some of their own needs, including the needs of the more disadvantaged elements in their midst.

In this regard the Foundation's programs, which are supported by the general purpose grant from AID, are responsive to the guidelines laid down by the Congress and its priority interest in population, community health services, food and nutrition and human resource development. Although the Foundation has programmed to a greater or lesser extent in these fields for a number of years, a greatly increased effort has been made of late to respond to Asian needs in the areas of greatest concern to your Committee. We have a substantial number of projects in most of the poorer countries of Asia which are specifically directed toward reaching

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the poor -- especially the poor in the rural areas. These projects are aimed at improving family health, family nutrition, family planning, and at expanding economic and employment opportunities through informal and vocational training programs and other educational activities vital to human social and economic advancement.

Given its experience, its established presence in 12 Asian countries, its wide range of Asian contacts and associations built up over the past 25 years, and most importantly, its standing and acceptability in Asia -- the Foundation is in a strong position to complement and support through its small grants our country's interests in Asia. The Foundation has a continuing desire to serve these interests, as well as the interests of Asians in improving the quality of their lives and strengthening their own societies. To do so the Foundation needs the continuing support of the American government, as well as increasing support from the American private sector.

As additional information I am enclosing (1) a table summarizing the Foundation support from the public and private sectors over the past seven years; (2) a description of our Books Program and contributions thereto; and (3) illustrative examples of Foundation recent and on-going projects in the poorer countries of Asia which are designed to benefit the poorest majority.

We would be pleased to provide you with any further data you might desire. We also stand ready to answer any questions you might have. You might also wish to contact members of the Canham Committee which has been reviewing and evaluating over the past six months the work of the Foundation and the relationship of its activities to the United States Government interests. The State Department or AID I am sure would be happy to provide you with their names and how they can be reached. Finally, let me thank you again for the courtesy of seeing me and for your consideration of our needs. Your understanding and support are essential to the future of The Asia Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

Haydn Williams
President

Enclosures
a/s

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

SCT 76-8656
[Signature]

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Remarks:

*Given to me by TAF
President Williams*

22 July

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